

All Star 1 Conference Evaluations for 2026

The reviews were glowing!

Once again, our familiar activities each turned up as someone's favorite, and there was real gratitude for everyone who coordinated the week and led activities — Housing and the Children's Program coordinators especially, and special thanks to Cooper and Macy for keeping the Great People Hunt running. It's clear, again this year, that this conference is something we all build together.

Activities people loved most ran the gamut from the Lecture and Talks on the Rocks to just rocking on the porch or walking the back of the island, with plenty in between. The Speaker got rave reviews — one respondent called this year's "sensational" — and so did 15x20, which people keep naming as one of the best ways to get to know each other. Chapel in all its forms (morning, evening, children's, all-ages) was mentioned again and again as something that "continues to delight." Evening entertainment kept its devoted following too: Stevie Wonder Night, Name That Tune (a few felt it moved too fast this year), Musicale, trivia, and karaoke.

A number of you noted appreciating a slightly lighter schedule this year — with fewer things stacked on top of each other, the week felt less frenetic. Worth remembering as we build next year's schedule: opening night in particular felt overstuffed, with the marshmallow roast, chapel, and get-acquainted time all competing for attention on the same evening.

There were some very helpful, specific suggestions about Banquet Night. Several people flagged that seating hasn't kept pace with a conference this size: signing up late meant no table inside, the overflow tables outside got loud and crowded, and the evening ended up feeling more stressful than special, even in good weather. This seems worth a real conversation about how Banquet specifically needs to evolve, separate from the rest of the meals, which people say handle this size just fine.

There were, again, a number of comments about the conference feeling "too crowded" — both directly (a suggestion to trim enrollment by 10–20 people) and indirectly, through the Banquet Night feedback above. As in years past, this is really a governance-level conversation about capacity and finances rather than something a program tweak can fix on its own.

Gabrielle, Jason, and Jodi look forward to continuing the tradition of a family-friendly, mentally stimulating, musically and artistically enriching All Star 1 Conference.